



*Rockingham County
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



N4IV

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The RockingHAMmer News

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President's Corner

Greetings RCARC friends! Well, spring has sprung and there is new energy in the air, and I hope also some energy in the airwaves for all of us. As the solar cycle continues its slow downward trend over the next couple years, we're going to need to take advantage of any time we can find that "extra energy" in the ionosphere for certain!

April is a very important month not only amateur radio, but also in the life of RCARC specifically. There truly is so much going on right now. First, I would like to mention that the ARRL/Roanoke Division Convention – otherwise known as RARSfest (the Raleigh hamfest) is fast approaching on April 15th in the Jim Graham Building on the State Fair Grounds. See www.rars.org/rarsfest for more information, and be sure to check out www.ncstatefair.org for other activities happening at the fairgrounds, such as the big flea market. My wife always enjoys checking out the merchandise while I do my ham radio thing, except last year when it poured rain on her the entire time! In fact, our day won't end there as we plan to visit museums and enjoy a great dinner while visiting. I encourage you to make a day of it and take advantage of everything our state capital has to offer!

Please mark your calendar for Saturday May 13th for our annual RCARC SwapFest. We will once again, be holding it at the Reidsville Community Baptist Church. Your help is needed in any capacity to ensure we pull off a great event for the ham community! Contact Paul, N4CE or Roger, W4AYO to see how you can help out.

Just as a friendly reminder, If you haven't paid your dues, the time is now. RCARC needs your support, so please consider paying your dues at the next meeting, but even if you cannot make you can pay dues by mail. Just send a check to **RCARC, Inc. PO Box 2264, Reidsville, NC 27323**. Your support is needed and appreciated!

Thanks to everyone who turned out for the social at El Parral in March. We had a couple new faces as well as some not seen in a while. It was great to enjoy a good dinner with you all! Remember we will be back to a regular meeting this month on the third Tuesday, April 18th at 7p.m. The location as usual, is at the Red Cross Building on NC14, between Eden and Reidsville. In addition to making final plans for our SwapFest, there will be a great presentation, and we will also discuss future plans for the 147.345 repeater in Madison. 73 de Bill, N8KSG

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About the Newsletter : *This newsletter is published monthly by and for the members of the Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club. Computer/inter-net users should be able to click on the website links that are usually underlined. Please advise me of any change of address or mail preference. Please have all articles to me by the 2nd Tuesday of each month.
73 (KF4LIK) Michael, your editor.*

Events

Breakfasts

Henry Pollock Memorial Breakfast - Tuesday – 7:00 am, The Farmer's Table, Reidsville
Thursday – 7:00 am, Sanitary Cafe, Reidsville

RCARC Meeting

The RCARC usually meets the 3rd Tuesday night of the month at the American Red Cross Building located between Reidsville and Eden on Highway 14 at 7:00PM. The next meeting will be on the 18th of April at 7pm.

Roanoke Division Convention (Raleigh Hamfest)

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society will sponsor an ARRL hamfest/convention on Saturday, April 15th from 8am until 3pm at the NC State Fairgrounds - Jim Graham Building located on 1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27601. Website: <http://rars.org/rarsfest> Talk-In: 146.64 (no PL tone) Public Contact: Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, 2005 Quail Ridge Road Raleigh, NC 27609. Phone: 919-872-6555. Email: k4hf@arrl.net

13th Annual Rockingham County Swapfest

The Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club will host a swapfest on Saturday, May the 13th, from 8am until noon at the Community Baptist Church located at 509 Triangle Road, Reidsville, NC 27320 Website: <http://n4iv.org> Talk-In: 147.345 (PL 103.5) Public Contact: James Patterson, N4CE 125 Woodstone Drive Stoneville, NC 27048 Phone: 336-548-2027 Email: n4ce@mail.com



Skywarn Weather Spotters (and all amateur radio operators) encountering severe weather, are encouraged to monitor and make reports. The Skywarn website is: <http://www.skywarn.org> . For a guide to reporting weather, see the website: <http://www.wx4rnk.org/guide.html> .



NOAA WEATHER RADIO BANDS

CHANNELS-FREQUENCIES-S.A.M.E. Codes

162.400 MHz WXL42 WINSTON-SALEM NWS PIEDMONT AREA
Rockingham County, N.C. SAME code: 037157

162.475 MHz WXL60 BLACKSBURG NWS ROCKINGHAM COUNTY
Rockingham County, N.C. SAME code: 037157

162.550 MHz WXL58 RALEIGH NWS PIEDMONT & CENTRAL N.C.

All stations listed for travel (in MHz):

162.400	162.425	162.450	162.475	162.500	162.525	162.550
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A nation-wide network of radio stations broadcast continuous weather information from nearby National Weather Service (NWS) offices. You can get weather 24 hours a day. NOAA weather radios are the best way to receive warnings from the NWS. It is best to have a battery back-up and Specific Area Message Encoder (SAME) that will alert you when a watch or warning is issued for Rockingham County, N.C. (037157). Complete information is at NOAA's website: nws.noaa.gov/nwr . For current weather forecasts on the inter-net, go to NOAA's National Weather Service website: weather.gov . Your weather forecast on a mobile device: mobile.weather.gov or cell.weather.gov

Dial-A-Forecast is 919-515-8209 (option 2) for the Triad area including Greensboro, Winston, Salem, and High Point. The New River Valley, Roanoke, and Lynchburg, Virginia's area number is 540-552-0497.

AREA NETS

Monday 8:30PM RCARC 2-meter net 147.345 MHz 103.5

This club net is a weekly meeting for announcements, business, and comments. Check-ins will be taken in analog (FM) mode. Please make it a priority to check into our net.

Thursday 8:15PM RCARC - DIGITAL 147.345 MHz YSF C4FM

Digital stations are invited each Thursday to participate in a round table group rag-chew session. This is not a formal net with a net control station. Any and all stations are invited to this digital group with the Yaesu System Fusion in the C4FM digital mode.

OTHER AREA NETS

Sunday 8:00pm	Sherrills Ford, NC	50.150, no tone
Sunday 8:30pm	Southern Alamance Net	146.670, no tone
Sunday 9:00pm	Greensboro News & Info Net	145.150, 100 Hz
Sunday 9:00pm	Southeastern D-Star Weather Net	REF002A
Sunday 9:30pm	Central NC Traffic Net	146.820, no tone
Monday 8:00pm	Randolph County Net	147.255, 82.5 Hz
Monday 9:00pm	Lynchburg, VA	50.400, no tone
Tuesday 8:00pm	Sandlappers, Lexington, SC	50.250, no tone
Tuesday 8:00pm	Burlington ARES Net	146.670, no tone
Tuesday 8:30pm	Triad Skywarn Net	147.255, 82.5 Hz
Tuesday 9:00pm	N.C. D-Star Net (W4GSO) REF054C	442.86250
Wednesday 8:00pm	Roanoke Amateur Club Net	146.985, 107.5Hz
Wednesday 8:30pm	Forsyth County ARES Net	145.470, 100 Hz
Wednesday 8:45pm	Greensboro Amateur Society Net	145.250, 88.5 Hz
Thursday 8:00pm	Pink Hill, NC	50.200, no tone
Thursday 9:00pm	Guilford County ARES Net	145.150, 100 Hz
Saturday 8:00am	Wake Forest, NC	50.200, no tone

Daily Nets

5:30am	Possum Trot Net	147.225, 82.5 Hz
8:00am	Richmond 6 Meter Net	50.215, no tone
2:30pm	Vag-A-Bon Net	145.470, 100 Hz
7:30pm	Tarheel Emergency Net (ARES)	3.923 LSB

VEC TESTING

The regularly scheduled VEC testing is held on the last Saturday of each odd-numbered month at the Eden branch of the Rockingham County Library located at: 598 S. Pierce St., Eden, NC. Registration begins at 9am, testing starts at 9:30am. Effective September 1, 2015 the Rockingham County VE Testing will be conducted on a "Preregistration Only" basis. The preregistration must be received by the Monday prior to the scheduled test date. Applicants should call Dal Williams, W4YQY at 336-627-7076 for preregistration info and details.

In Memory of RCARC Silent Key (Things I Remember, K4RVJ)

Frank Rogue

Frank, WB6IIV, S K, 7-9-08, Wife Margie also a ham KI4PRU, both active club members. He was a very smart person, instrumental in preparing the Clubs Articles of organization and By-laws. He always attended club activities and actively worked with events like the hamfest, etc.

Looking for Equipment to Buy

Jeff, N4UTF, is looking for an HF rig to purchase. Please contact Jeffery Reeves <jpreeves76@icloud.com>

DIGITAL CROSSES THE FINISH LINE

In this report on digital radio modes, we hear about one amateur radio club in Ireland that took this new technology for a test run in County Galway and found it roadworthy. Runners in the annual Kinvara Rock and Road Half Marathon and 10K run in County Galway, Ireland, can always expect a stunning finish as the race winds up on the quay in Kinvara. In this year's contest, however, another group celebrated a fine finish of their own: Hams in the Galway VHF Group were providing radio assistance to runners along the seaside route and these hams ended up feeling like winners too. This was the club's first time making use of C4FM technology -- and the effort was deemed a success. It may have been the club's first all-digital operation for an Amateur Radio Emergency Network-supported event but it won't be their last. According to the club, it has been decided that similar operations in the future will feature DMR radios or radios equipped with Yaesu Fusion.

(KINVARA ROCK AND ROAD MARATHON, GALWAY VHF GROUP, IRTS)

HAMS' TRADITION OF SURVIVAL

For South African radio operators Tom ZS1AFS and Sue ZS1AFR the annual tradition of being on the air as ZT1T is one for which they're immeasurably grateful. The activation marks the Morgans' dramatic rescue from their yacht which became disabled in the South Atlantic Ocean in 2011, while they were sailing to South Africa from the UK. The prefix of their call sign makes their radio operation all the more meaningful too, not just for Tom and Sue but for those who contact them, because "ZT" is a one-of-a-kind prefix for a South African call sign.

Having marked the anniversary date of their Feb. 25 rescue not long ago, Tom and Sue Morgan are now preparing for their next big radio operation. That will be Easter weekend. In an email to Amateur Radio Newsline, Tom said they operate every Christmas and Easter and often use the ZT1T call sign as well in events such as the WPX SSB Contest to provide a multiplier to operators. They will begin their Easter operation starting on Thursday the 13th of April, mostly on SSB but with some PSK-31 as well.

There's lots to celebrate, since the Morgans' on-air operations are always immensely popular -- especially because they're still here and still on the air.

(AR Newsline, Southgate Amateur Radio News)

THE WORLD OF DX

In the world of DX, Jean-Marc, F5SGI, will be active between April 9th and 15th as EA6/F5SGI from Minorque Island. He will be operating on the HF bands, CW only. Send QSL cards to his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

Listen for Marc, ON5SM, in the Philippines where he is operating from April 4th through May 24th as DU9/ON5SM. He will be active on 80 meters through 6 meters using SSB and the Digital modes. Send QSL cards via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

Between April 18th and 27th, listen for Stephen/WF2S and Ralph/K1ZZI, operating from St. Lucia. You can hear them on various HF bands, most likely on SSB, RTTY, PSK and JT65. They will also operate some CW. Send QSL cards to their home callsigns, direct or LoTW, which is preferred.

(AR Newsline)

REMINDER! SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING ON CENTRAL CAROLINA SKYWARN

INFORMATION NET (4/4, 4/11) – The following information was provided by Virginia Enzor, NC4VA: “SKYWARN Spotter Training will be offered on the Central Carolina SKYWARN Information Net on April 4th and April 11th at 9:15 PM on the 146.88 repeater (Wake County) and via live-streaming audio on the internet. Training will focus on the role of the SKYWARN spotter, weather safety, and convective basics. This training may be used to earn initial spotter certification or renew certification, which is required every three years. Part 1 of Basic Training will be held on April 4th; Part 2 on April 11th. The instructor will be Nick Petro, WX3H, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NWS Raleigh. To fully benefit from this training and to receive certification, you must: a) download the training presentation before each net from www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net (it will be included with the Weekly Weather Impact Briefing, click on the Weekly Weather Impact Briefing on the top menu to download); b) listen and check in at the end of both nets; and c) email Virginia Enzor, NC4VA, Emergency Coordinator (Central Carolina SKYWARN) at nc4va@nc.rr.com with your name, call sign (if licensed), and preferred email address. The NWS will then contact you about completing the spotter certification process.” “Scanner listeners and listeners receiving live-streaming audio on the internet at www.broadcastify.com may also participate by downloading the presentations and emailing Virginia NC4VA immediately after both nets. Again, be sure to include your name, call sign (if licensed), and preferred email address. For live-streamed training, visit www.broadcastify.com and proceed as follows: Listen > North Carolina > Wake > Central Carolina SKYWARN. If you live outside the Raleigh NWS coverage area, the Raleigh NWS will coordinate with your Weather Forecast Office to ensure your SKYWARN spotter certification. Virginia Enzor NC4VA ...” Additional SKYWARN Spotter Training classes sponsored by NWS Raleigh can be found at <http://www.weather.gov/rah/skywarn> Please check your local National Weather Service office for SKYWARN Spotter Training classes in your area.

(ARRL NC Section Newsletter, NC4VA)

NVIS RESEARCH PAPER AVAILABLE – A thorough and fully annotated discussion of Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) is available in the research paper, “Radio Communication via Near Vertical Incidence Skywave Propagation: An Overview,” by Ben A. Witvliet, PE5B/5R8DS, and Rosa Ma Alsina-Pagès. First investigated in the 1920s, NVIS propagation was rediscovered during World War II as “an essential means to establish communications in large war zones such as the D-Day invasion in Normandy,” the paper notes, adding that the US Army subsequently sponsored a lot of NVIS field research, especially between 1966 and 1973. More recently, NVIS has become a popular means to enable close-in communication on Amateur Radio HF bands between 3 and 10 MHz. NVIS can be used for radio communication in a large area (200-kilometer radius) without any intermediate man-made infrastructure, and it has been found to be especially suited for disaster relief communication, among other applications, according to the paper. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/nvis-research-paper-available>

(ARRL NC Section newsletter, ARRL website)